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Letter dated 19 June 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to my letter to the President of the Security Council dated 13 June 2018 (S/2018/607), annexing a letter from Anwar Gargash, Cabinet member and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. Upon instructions from my Government, I am pleased to transmit herewith a letter from Reem Al Hashimy, Cabinet member and Minister of State for International Cooperation, regarding recent developments relating to the humanitarian situation in Hudaydah, Yemen (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Lana **Nusseibeh**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 19 June 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The operation by the Arab Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen and by the legitimate Government of Yemen to liberate Hudaydah, which is currently under way, is directed at ending the deadlock in the political process resulting from the past three years of intransigence and obstruction by the Houthis, countering the Houthis' continued violations of Security Council resolution 2216 (2015) and addressing the humanitarian consequences of the grossly negligent operation of the port under Houthi control. As a member of the Arab Coalition, the United Arab Emirates is implementing the operation to liberate Hudaydah. That operation is underpinned by the acute awareness of the United Arab Emirates of the humanitarian and human rights aspects of armed conflict, and its deep concern for the welfare of the Yemeni people.

The United Arab Emirates is committed to international humanitarian law and reaffirms its humanitarian commitment to the people of Yemen, regardless of their location and affiliation. To this end, the United Arab Emirates is closely following the humanitarian situation in Hudaydah, and in Yemen as a whole. The purpose of the present letter is to share with the Security Council the latest developments in the humanitarian situation as at 19 June 2018.

The humanitarian situation

The current humanitarian situation in Hudaydah is stable. As a result of the collective efforts of United Nations entities, alongside the efforts of the Arab Coalition, more than 120,000 tons of food is currently stockpiled in Hudaydah. According to World Food Programme estimates, this is sufficient to cover the food needs of 6.6 million people for at least one month.

The Hudaydah and Salif ports are open and are receiving international humanitarian aid: at least eight vessels were able to dock and unload their cargo at Hudaydah port in the past week alone, and more vessels are headed to the port with the expectation that they will be cleared to dock in the next few days.

The Arab Coalition is doing what it can to maintain the existing distribution networks and is committed to ensuring the safe and timely distribution of aid, including through deconfliction for humanitarian convoys.

The Arab Coalition humanitarian "surge" plan

As outlined in the letter dated 13 June 2018 from Anwar Gargash, the Arab Coalition has — as a central and integrated part of the operation to liberate Hudaydah — developed a large-scale and comprehensive humanitarian surge plan for the rapid delivery of aid to Hudaydah and the areas of Yemen that depend on its port. The Coalition successfully implemented similar large-scale aid operations when it liberated Aden, Mukalla and Mukha'.

This multifaceted humanitarian surge plan, which was studied and developed over a period of months, addresses the specific food, fuel, shelter and medical needs of women, girls, boys and men who depend on the port, as well as arrangements to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of humanitarian relief. The plan furthermore comprises contingency measures directed at addressing a broad range of scenarios, such as the displacement of civilians, the obstruction of roads and access points and the destruction of infrastructure perpetrated by the Houthis.

The key features of the humanitarian surge plan are as follows:

(a) The United Arab Emirates has pre-positioned 50,000 tons of food aid in Yemen and other proximate locations, to be deployed in the event that the distribution of aid is disrupted. This includes:

(i) Ten vessels, carrying a total of 35,000 tons of food, already stationed near or en route to Hudaydah. Additional vessels are also pre-positioned for deployment at ports in Saudi Arabia;

(ii) Seven aircraft registered in the United Arab Emirates, with a total airdrop capacity of 14,000 tons, available to launch a humanitarian air bridge in the event that the urgent distribution of aid is required;

(iii) One hundred trucks contracted by the United Arab Emirates to deliver food by convoy from Aden. The first convoy distributed aid south of Hudaydah this week.

Additional aid is currently stockpiled in Aden and other places nearby to ensure broader contingency coverage for Yemen.

(b) In the light of the Houthis' mining of Hudaydah port, the surge plan includes mine-clearing operations to allow for the urgent resumption of large ship movements. Mine-clearing operations are also planned for Hudaydah airport, as part of the Coalition's objective to restore the airport and commence air operations to complement existing aid distribution networks;

(c) The United Arab Emirates is developing alternative networks and routes for the delivery of aid to Hudaydah and points beyond, to be implemented should there be an attempt by the Houthis to damage or destroy Hudaydah port, existing aid distribution networks or other infrastructure.

Coordination with the United Nations and humanitarian actors

The United Arab Emirates affirms that the United Nations and both international and local humanitarian agencies have an essential role to play in ensuring the welfare of the residents of Hudaydah, including on the ground. The United Arab Emirates welcomes the presence of the United Nations in Hudaydah and reiterates its commitment to continuing close coordination with United Nations entities on humanitarian issues. The United Arab Emirates is in constant coordination with the United Nations and international aid agencies through the Evacuation and Humanitarian Operations Committee. The United Arab Emirates is also working closely on the ground with Emirati and Saudi aid agencies, including Emirates Red Crescent and the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre.

The perspectives, concerns and recommendations of United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations and other humanitarian actors are being taken into account, and the military efforts of the Arab Coalition and the legitimate Government of Yemen are carefully calibrated to avoid civilian casualties, minimize damage to vital infrastructure, including Hudaydah port, in conformity with international humanitarian law, and to provide the Houthis with the greatest possible opportunity to withdraw from Hudaydah.

Humanitarian commitment of the United Arab Emirates to Yemen

The efforts by the members of the Arab Coalition to preserve existing aid distribution networks and develop contingency measures to ensure the continued flow of humanitarian relief to Hudaydah and beyond are consistent with their longstanding humanitarian commitment to Yemen and its people. In the period from April 2015 to May 2018, the United Arab Emirates contributed $3.7 billion in aid to Yemen. In

2018, the United Arab Emirates pledged $465 million to support the United Nations humanitarian response plan for Yemen, in addition to the $35 million pledged to restore the airports and seaports of Yemen.

The humanitarian commitment of the United Arab Emirates to Yemen corresponds to that of the other members of the Arab Coalition, as evidenced — for instance — by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Humanitarian Relief Plan for Yemen for the year 2018, detailed in the identical letters dated 23 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/2018/62).

Further updates on the humanitarian situation

The United Arab Emirates shares the deep concern of the members of the Security Council for the welfare of Hudaydah's residents and the people who depend upon its port. In this regard, on behalf of my Government, I propose to provide the Security Council with regular updates on the humanitarian situation.

(*Signed*) Reem **Al Hashimy**
Minister of State for International Cooperation